

Application No. 10/679,977
Reply to Office Action mailed 18 March 2005

REMARKS

At the time of this Office Action, claims 1 - 21 were pending. Of these claims, Claims 1, 3, 11, 15 and 21 are cancelled. Claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 18-20 are amended.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has determined that the claims as filed disclose three patentably distinct species of the invention. Applicants do not traverse this holding.

The three species are:

- A) Claims 1-11, directed at a flat LCD device with a black mask EMI layer between the front and rear glass plates;
- B) Claims 12-17, directed at a flat LCD device with a metal heater layer integral to the TFT; and
- C) Claims 18-21, directed at a flat LCD device with at least one thermal sensor integral to the TFT.

In response to the present Office Action, the Applicant elects to restrict the present application to species B, that is, as initially presented in claims 12-17. Because of claim amendments, all pending claims now depend directly or indirectly from claim 12.

Information Disclosure Statement

In examining the claims as to patentability, the Examiner's attention is directed to an electronic IDS filed on 25 May 2004, as well as to a hard copy IDS being filed herewith. The latter IDS discloses non-patent references that could not be filed electronically.

Claim Amendments

As a result of the amendments made above, independent claim 1 is cancelled and claim 18 now depends from claim 12.

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The Examiner will note that claim 16 and claim 1 contain the same limitations. Therefore, by canceling claims 1, 3 and 6 and by changing dependencies of claims 2, 4, 5 and 7-10, all of the remaining claims previously in species A are now in species B. Also, by making claim 18 depend from claim 12, and cancelling claim 21, all remaining claims previously in species C are now in species B.

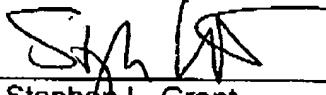
The amendment to claim 12 is made to correct a typographical error of omitting the word "rear" in line 4 of the claim.

None of the foregoing claims are narrowing in nature.

The case is now ready for examination, which is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Stephen L. Grant
Registration No. 33,390
Standley Law Group LLP
495 Metro Place South, Suite 210
Dublin, Ohio 43017-5315
Telephone: (614) 792-5555
Facsimile: (614) 792-5536
sqrant@standleyllp.com